

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, October 9

- On October 9, EPA will issue a release honoring 40 companies with its 2012 SmartWay Excellence Awards. Awardees are industry leaders in supply chain environmental and energy efficiency. Launched in 2004, SmartWay is an EPA program that reduces transportation-related emissions by creating incentives to improve supply chain fuel efficiency.

Wednesday, October 10

- On October 10, EPA will announce \$1.2 million in Indoor Air Quality Assistance Agreements to 33 state and local governments, tribes and non-profit organizations for indoor air quality projects across the United States. These assistance agreements will help schools, communities and homeowners improve indoor air quality and help protect the health of students and families.
- On October 10, EPA expects to announce the lodging of a supplemental consent decree memorializing a cash-out settlement that will allow the Superfund cleanup in New Bedford Harbor to progress much more quickly than might occur without the settlement (approximately 6 years vs 40 years). It means that AVX Corporation will pay \$366.25 million plus interest, and will be the primary party responsible for the contamination at the site will be financing the rest of the Superfund cleanup rather than the taxpayers.

Thursday, October 11

- On October 11, EPA expects to award \$30,000,000 for clean diesel projects as part of its ongoing campaign to reduce harmful diesel exhaust and better protect people's health. The Diesel Emission Reduction Program, also known as DERA, is designed to replace, retrofit or repower older marine vessels, locomotives, trucks, buses, and other diesel powered equipment. New this year, an increased funding availability per award will allow EPA to target larger engines used in marine vessels and locomotives, which will result in significant emissions reduced per engine.

Week of October 8

- As early as October 5, EPA expects to sign and send to the FR a notice extending the public comment period for the December, 2011 draft EPA report, "Investigation of Ground Water Contamination near Pavillion, WY," until January 15, 2013. This extension will provide additional time for the public to review reports by USGS and EPA that contain the results of the re-sampling of monitoring wells in the Pavillion area.
- On October 9-10, Administrator Jackson is scheduled to meet with Tohono O'odham Tribal Leaders and Tohono O'odham Community College President in Tucson, Arizona. She will also meet with Hualapai Tribal Leaders and EPA National Tribal Operation Committee Chairman Clay Bravo in Las Vegas, NV. The Administrator will also meet with Chairman Watahomigic of the Havasupai Tribe and give a presentation on Sustainable Tourism Strategy of the Havasupai Tribe.

- As early as the week of October 8, EPA plans to release peer reviewer comments on the draft Bristol Bay (Alaska) Watershed Assessment. Twelve independent expert scientists and engineers reviewed the EPA report following a public comment period in the summer 2012. EPA will consider public comments and input from the peer reviewers to revise and improve the draft Bristol Bay Assessment. EPA plans to issue the final Bristol Bay Assessment to the public by the end of the calendar year 2012.
- As early as the week of October 8, EPA expects to post three new limited laboratory studies evaluating PCB mitigation methods and PCB exposure sources in school buildings, along with updated guidance on how best to manage PCB-containing light ballasts and caulk in older buildings. EPA is also preparing communication materials. The research found that some building materials and indoor dust can absorb PCB emissions and become “secondary sources” for PCBs which continue to emit PCBs after the original source is removed. EPA research also found encapsulation was able to reduce PCB emissions, but was only effective at reducing air concentrations to desirable levels when PCB content in the source was low. The findings confirmed previous results related to emissions from caulk and light ballasts containing PCBs. The updated guidance will also link to EPA's research on PCBs in school web-page.
- As early as the week of October 8, EPA is scheduled to announce clarifications to the Agency's policy that “good samaritans,” or non-labile parties, who volunteer to cleanup abandoned mine sites, are not responsible for obtaining a permit under the Clean Water Act (CWA). Assistant Administrator Cynthia Giles, Mathy Stanislaus and Acting Assistant Administrator Nancy Stoner will send a memorandum to EPA Regional Administrators to help clarify the requirements and facilitate cleanups at abandoned mines nationwide, which pose serious human health, public safety and environmental hazards.
- As early as the week of October 8, EPA plans to issue a final rule to correct an inadvertent technical error in a 2008 New Source Review permitting rule. This rule will remove the requirement that industrial sources must count condensable particulate matter for purposes of measuring "particulate matter emissions". Condensable particulate matter will continue to be measured for purposes of NSR permitting for PM10 and PM2.5. OMB determined this rule to be non-significant. EPA does not expect this action to be controversial and, based on public comments, that stakeholders will be satisfied with the final action.
- As early as the week of October 8, pending OMB review, EPA expects to take final action on its reconsideration of national emissions standards for chemical manufactures that are smaller sources of hazardous air pollutants – also known as area sources – in response to requests for reconsideration by the American Chemistry Council and the Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates. This action addresses the industry's concerns about six provisions in EPA's 2009 rule that need clarification. This reconsideration finalizes amendments to the rule which aid in compliance, but does not change the level of the standard nor impose costs. Signature and publication are necessary prior to the existing compliance date for the changes to become effective beforehand. The existing compliance date is October 29, 2012. This action is not anticipated to be controversial with states, industry or environmental groups.

Non-ARRA grants

- \$1,141,150 – Senior Environmental Employment (SEE) Program – *National Association for Hispanic Elderly, California*
- \$2,214,000 – Senior Environmental Employment (SEE) Program – *National Council on Aging, District of Columbia*
- \$2,830,000 – State Public Water System Supervision – *Washington State Department of Health, Washington*